

Appl. No. 10/707,072  
Docket No. 124509/GEM-0030

### **REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

#### **Status of Claims**

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 16-20, and 23-32 are allowed. Claims 8, 9, 21 and 22 stand rejected. Claims 10-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of the noted claims. Applicant has amended Claims 10, 12 and 21, and has canceled Claims 8 and 9, leaving Claims 1-7 and 10-32 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b), have been traversed, that no new matter has been entered, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner comments that Claim 21 should depend from Claim 20, and that Claim 22 inherits the defect in its parent claim.

Applicant has amended Claim 21 to depend from Claim 20, thereby obviating this rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection, which Applicant considers to be obviated.

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**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Laskaris, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,923, hereinafter Laskaris).

Applicant has canceled Claims 8 and 9, thereby obviating this rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw of this rejection.

In light of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b), have been traversed, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

**Regarding Allowable Subject Matter**

In addition to allowing Claims 1-7, 16-20 and 23-32, the Examiner remarks that Claims 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that Claims 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

Regarding Claims 10-15, Applicant has canceled Claims 8 and 9, has rewritten Claim 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claim, and has amended Claim 12 for proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 10-15 are now allowable, and respectfully requests notice of allowance thereof.

Regarding Claims 21-22, Applicant has amended Claim 21 for proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 21-22 are now allowable, and respectfully requests notice of allowance thereof.

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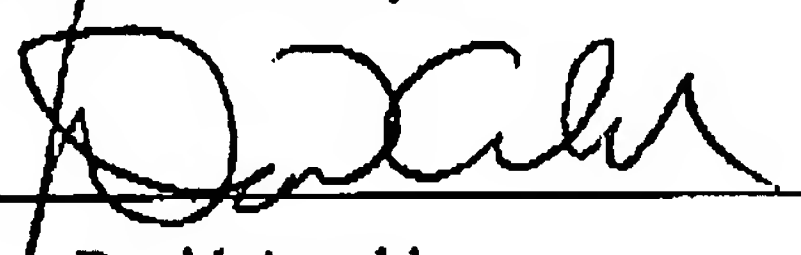
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-0845.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-identified Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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